

HOUSE No. 1483

By Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop, petition of Robert A. DeLeo and Gerald D. DiFranza relative to the assurance of non-visual access to information technology. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ASSURANCE OF NON-VISUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 30B, as appearing in the
2 General Laws 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting, after the definition of “Grant Agreement”, the
4 following:—
5 “Information Technology”, all electronic processing hardware
6 and software used for the creation, storage, retrieval, and dissemi-
7 nation of information, including telecommunications.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 30B, as appearing in the
2 General Laws 2002 Official Edition, is hereby further amended by
3 inserting, after the definition of “Minor informalities”, the
4 following:—
5 “Non-visual” synthesized speech, Braille, and other methods of
6 obtaining information not requiring the use of sight.

1 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 30B, as appearing in the
2 General Laws 2002 Official Edition, is hereby further amended by
3 adding, after the definition of “Supplies”, the following:—
4 “Telecommunications”, the transmission of information,
5 images, pictures, voice or data by radio, video or other electronic
6 or impulse means.

1 SECTION 4. Section 30B, as appearing in the General Laws
2 2002 Official Edition, is hereby further amended by inserting,
3 after section 19, the following:—

4 Section 20. Assurance of non-visual access to information tech-
5 nology. Any contract or grant agreement that includes the pur-
6 chase of any information technology shall ensure that the same
7 level of interactive control and use of such information tech-
8 nology, telecommunications and other interconnected network
9 services, and non-visual means as by visual means.